

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

Claim Objections

Claims 7 and 17-20 were objected to for minor informalities. More specifically, the Examiner objects to the term “is” used before “comprises” in these claims. In accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion, claims 7 and 17-20 have been amended to delete the term “is”. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over Tsuboi (USP 6,263,380). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As will be discussed in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that the **Tsuboi** reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed “*said parent device has a means for issuing a measured value save command to said plural measurement electronic device units including the own unit, in response to a request from the external device, to thereby cause said plural measurement electronic device units to simultaneously save measured values by the respective detectors in the memories*” recited in claim 1.

The Tsuboi reference

The **Tsuboi** reference is directed to a measurement data processing unit including a plurality of relaying units to which one or more measuring devices can be connected and a processing device to which the plurality of relaying units are connected in sequence. The processing device collects and processes the measurement data from the plurality of relaying units.

More specifically, as shown in Fig. 1 of **Tsuboi**, digital dial gauges 10 (measuring devices) measure data and send the measured data to a personal computer 60 (which collects and processes the measured data) via respective relaying units 20, 40. The relaying units 20, 40 are connected to each other serially via a cable 71 and a relaying unit 20 nearest the personal computer 60 is connected to the personal computer via an RS 232C cable 72.

As shown in Fig. 2 and described in col. 6, lines 48-64, the plurality of relaying units includes a master unit 20M, which is the unit disposed at the end of the group of relaying units and is connected to the personal computer 60 through the RS 232C cable. The master unit 20M and the slave units 20S are identical in their inner structure and differ only in that the master unit is connected to the personal computer 60 via the RS 232C cable. The slave unit 40S differs from the slave unit 20S only in that the slave unit 40S may be connected to two digital dial gauges 10, whereas the slave unit 20S may be connected to only one digital dial gauge 10

As shown in Fig. 2, the cable 71 includes various lines for transmitting and receiving data. More specifically, the cable 71 includes (1) a command data line 711 that conveys a command C1 from the personal computer 60 to each relaying unit 20M, 20S, 40S (see col. 7,

lines 22-25); (2) a measurement data line 712 for transmitting measurement data S1 from the digital dial gauges 10 to the personal computer 60 via the relay units 20M, 20S, 40S (see col. lines 31-36); and (3) a data transmission identifying line 713 for transmitting a transmission identifying signal S3 indicating whether measurement data S1 is transmitted or not (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 37-39).

The internal structure of the relaying units is shown in Fig. 5. Please note, although Fig. 5 illustrates master unit 20M, as discussed above, **Tsuboi** teaches that the master unit and slave units have identical internal structure except for the structure that connects the master unit via the RS 232C cable. The relaying units 20, 40 include a microcomputer 31 having a memory 311 for recording the measurement data S1 from the digital dial gauge 10 (col. 8, lines 55-57).

Patentability Arguments

Tsuboi does not disclose the claimed “*said parent device has a means for issuing a measured value save command to said plural measurement electronic device units including the own unit, in response to a request from the external device, to thereby cause said plural measurement electronic device units to simultaneously save measured values by the respective detectors in the memories*” recited in claim 1.

More specifically, **Tsuboi** teaches that measurement data of the digital dial gauges 10 is transmitted in response to the command C1 *from the personal computer 60* (see col. 7, lines 25-30). Further, in col. 12, lines 1-4, which discusses the measurement process, **Tsuboi** teaches

“After the *personal computer 60* declares initiating measurement, the master unit 20M transmits the measurement data S1 of the digital dial gauge 10 to the personal computer 60.”

However, unlike the claimed invention, **Tsuboi** is silent regarding the master unit 20M (which is apparently considered to be a parent device) having means for issuing a measured value save command to a plurality of the relaying units 20S, 40S (which are apparently considered to be measurement electronic device units), including itself, in response to a request from the personal computer 60 (which is apparently considered to be an external device) to thereby cause the plural relaying units 20M, 20S, 40M to simultaneously save values measured by digital dial gauges 10 in memories 311.

In other words, **Tsuboi** only teaches that the external personal computer 60 sends a command C1 to the relaying units 20, 40 to initiate measuring and does not disclose or suggest that the master relaying unit 20M issues a command to simultaneously save measured data in the plurality of relaying units, including itself.

Moreover, the personal computer 60 does not include means for issuing a measured value save command to the plural measurement electronic device units 20, 40 including the parent device 20M to thereby cause said plural measurement electronic device units 20, 40 to simultaneously save measured values by the respective detectors 10 in the memories 311. Column 7, lines 22-30 of **Tsuboi** only discloses “a measurement data S1 of the digital dial gauge 10 connected to the each relaying unit 20M, 20S and 40S can be transmitted, or zero-point adjustment and span adjustment can be carried out by transmitting the command C1 from the personal computer 60”.

It is well established that anticipation under §102 is established only if *all the elements* of an invention, as stated in the claim, are identically set forth in *a single* prior art reference. *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co.*, 703 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed.Cir. 1984).

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2-20 which depend therefrom, under §102 is improper and should be withdrawn.

The Dependent Claims

Furthermore, dependent claims 2-20 include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the **Tsuboi** reference. More specifically, **Tsuboi** does not disclose or suggest the feature “*the parent device has a means for selectively changing connection of a signal line connected to the other measurement electronic device units to one of a signal line from an external device and a signal line of an internal output*” recited in claims 3 and 8, and the feature “*each of said measurement electronic device units except the parent device has a means for disconnecting mutually coupled signal lines to change connection to a signal line from an external part*”, as recited in claims 4 and 9.

Accordingly, the dependent claims patentably distinguish over **Tsuboi** for these additional reasons.

Application No. 10/532,810
Art Unit: 2857

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 052503

CONCLUSION

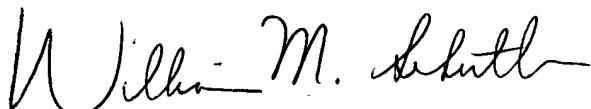
In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



William M. Schertler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,348
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WMS/dlt